

Congratulations!

ST. PATRICK ACADEMY

MOMENCE, ILLINOIS



1906 - 2006



Serving **100 Years**
in Education





REV. A. L. LABRIE
 Pastor, St. Patrick Church
 Momence, Illinois
 1896 - 1923

PASTORS THAT HAVE SERVED ST. PATRICK PARISH

Rev. George Kerston	1890-1896
Rev. A. L. LaBrie	1896-1923
Rev. A. L. Girard	1923-1933
Rev. T. U. Damarais	1933-1968
Rev. Raynor Richter	1968-1975
Rev. Stephen Kos	1975-1976
Rev. William O'Shea	1976-1980
Rev. Dennis Settles	1980-1989
Rev. Phillip Dederda	1989-1995
Rev. Denis White	1995-2002
Rev. Vern Arseneau	2002-

SUPERIORS OF ST. PATRICK ACADEMY

Mother Ligouri	1921-1927
Mother St. Emily	1921-1927
Mother St. John the Baptist	1927-1933
Mother St. Emily	1933-1938
Mother Rose Mary	1938-1942
Mother Imelda	1942-1943
Mother St. Eugene	1943-1949
Mother St. Viator	1949-1955
Mother Mary Eleanore	1955-1962
Mother Mary Ursula	1962-1964
Mother Mary Theophane	1964-1965

HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK ACADEMY MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

Rev. A. L. LaBrie became pastor of St. Patrick Parish in 1896. In the year of 1905 Fr. LaBrie went to see Rev. Mother Mathilde, then Provincial of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, to ask for sisters to teach in a new convent school he had just built to educate the children of his parish. Even though there was a dire need for a new church building, Fr. LaBrie judged that a school for the children was even more important so he had the school built first. Under his direction the cornerstone of St. Patrick Academy was laid in 1906.

When the sisters visited the school they were enthusiastic about its beauty. Classes began in 1907 with five sisters, six boarders and 75-80 day pupils.

The first annexed building and improvements were put up by Mother M. Liguori. Year after year, the number of boarders increased and the building had to be remodeled on the upper floor to install dormitories for boarders. Great progress in work resulted in an increase of pupils to such an extent that the building had to be annexed in 1917, installing a commercial department, a first grade room, two dormitories, and a recreation hall.

A small grotto was erected on the southwest side of the first building.

The grounds soon became too small, and one lot after another adjoining the convent grounds were bought (three by Mother M. Liguori, two by Mother St. Emily) which provided playgrounds. Permission was granted by city authorities to close the alley which separated these grounds on the west side of the building.

The gym was erected in 1931, offering state of the art facilities for physical education and sports activities.

The high school department of the Academy opened in 1907 with two freshmen students, Vernie Gelino and Edna Fontaine. They were the first two graduates, also graduating in 1911.

The high school was accredited to the University of Illinois in March, 1926 and was recognized by the State Department of Public Instruction in April 1931. The graduates of the Academy were eligible to enter the leading colleges and universities of the country without examination. The high school continued until 1965. Then the Academy offered elementary education only.

From the date of its foundation in 1907 until 1949, St. Patrick Academy was under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Chicago. In May, 1949, it became a part of the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois.

In an early description of the Academy building it mentions that "skill and art have happily combined in the general appearance of the edifice, both the elements of strength and solidarity with the correct symmetry of graceful outlines." (The original entrance of the convent section had two heavy porticoes supported by Greek columns. The interior, finished with antique oak and cypress wood was in perfect harmony with the exterior.) Due to deterioration, the original front entrance and convent section was torn down in 1986, and a new front wall was erected in its place.

The original "site" description was listed as such . . . "The institution's (Academy) healthful and picturesque location cannot be surpassed. Momence, situated on the Kankakee River, fifty miles south of Chicago is well known for its scenery. The Island Park in the very heart of the city and the woody banks of the river for miles are the favorite resorts of the fisherman, the picnicker and the seeker of restful enjoyment. The Log Cabin Camps along the river furnish delightful excursions to the pupils. The attractiveness of Momence is most conducive to make St. Patrick Academy interesting to visitors and likewise a peaceful and most pleasant home for such who within its walls devote themselves to intellectual work."

The purpose was stated as follows: "The aim of the Institution (Academy) is to train the heart as well as the intellect, thereby producing results both practical and comprehensive. Character formation, the love of virtue, and correct deportment is impressed upon the minds of the pupils as the all important feature of their school life."

Graduates from St. Patrick Academy have proceeded to become high school valedictorians and advanced to higher education in colleges and universities, and have become professionals in the medical field, the legal field, and the educational field – teachers and professors.

Today, St. Patrick Academy continues to offer a high quality of education, serving the people of Momence and surrounding communities. There are grades from pre-school through 8th grade. The 2006-2007 school year has a great staff under the direction and guidance of principal Mr. Richard Preston.



STAFF OF ST. PATRICK ACADEMY – 1908

Second Row – Standing (left to right) Sister St. Emily, Sister St. Claire, Sister St. Patrick, Sister Mary Carmel. Lower Row - Seated – Sister Mary Lawrence, Mother Mary Liguori (Superior), Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart



STAFF OF ST. PATRICK ACADEMY – 1957

Very Reverend Mother St. Eugenie, Reverend Mother Mary Mercy, Mother Mary Eleanore, Mother Mary Dolores, Sister Genevieve, Sister Mary Adelaide, Sister Mary Cecilia, Sister St. Ignatius, Sister Francis Xavier, Sister Marie of the Annunciation, Sister St. Lea, Sister Magdalene, Sister Mary Margaret, Sister Mary Christina, Sister Mary Veronica, Sister Mary Theophane, Sister Mary Mediatrix, Sister Mary Rose, Sister Mary Michael, Sister Mary Daniel, Sister Mary Assumpta – All Sisters – Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary



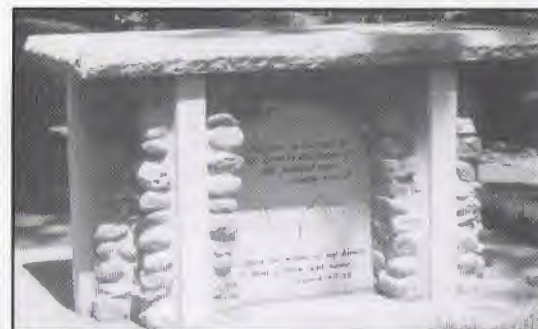
PRINCIPALS OF ST. PATRICK ACADEMY

(Per current records – 2006)

Mother Mary Dolores	1924-1959
Sister Johanna Murphy (Sr. Sebastian)	1961-1965
Sister Mary George (Sr. Catherine Bartlett)	1962 (GS)
Sister Shirley Compton	1972
Michael Scube	1972-1973
Joseph Haverstuh	1973-1976
Roxanne Hooper	1977-1994
Sister Kathleen Morrissey	1994-2005
Richard Preston	2005-



GROTTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

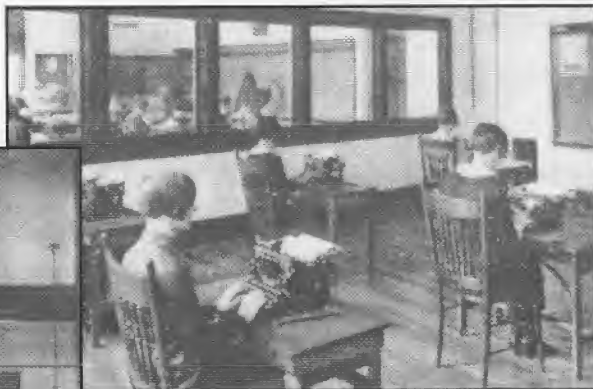


**ALTAR
NEAR
THE
GROTTO**





OLD PARLOR



**OLD BUSINESS CLASS / NEW 5th
and 6th HOME ROOM**



OLD CAMPUS



**OLD
MUSIC
ROOM**



DORMITORY



ORIGINAL CHAPEL

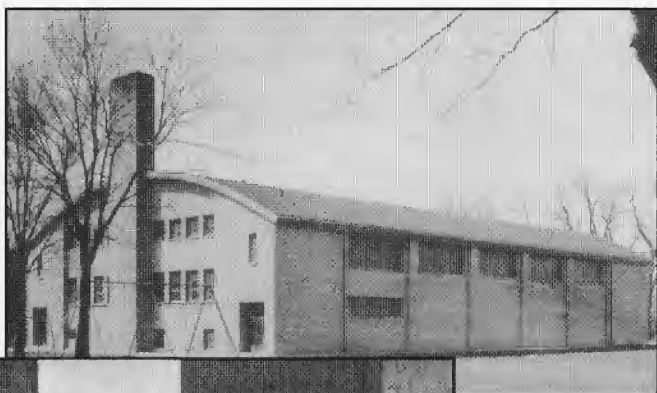


**PRESENT
CHAPEL**



**CHAPEL
UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**





IMPORTANT DATES

- 1906 - Cornerstone/School Built
- 1907 - Opened with nuns and 75 boys and girls, including
2 in high school
- 1924 - Addition to building
- 1931 - Gym built in October
- 1961 - Last year for grade school boarders
- 1965 - Last year for high school boarders and day scholars
- 1972 - Nuns left at end of school year and parish bought
property from them
- 1972 - Beef cookout started
- 1981 - Substantial church renovation
- 1985 - New Rectory
- 1985 - Grotto repairs and living rosary planted
- 1981 - Pre/Kindergarten started in August
- 1985 - Variety Show started
- 1986-1989 - New windows in school
- 1987-88 - Chapel redecorated
- 1986-87 - Original "convent" section of school torn down
- 1987 - New wall constructed
- 2002 - Gym floor refinished
- Alumni funds of over \$20,000 donated in past 15 years
provided scholarships, textbook series, gym stage
curtains, computers, printers, ceiling repairs, etc.

TEACHING STAFF 2006-07

Pre-school/KindergartenMrs. Susan Degitz
1st / 2nd gradesMrs. Sandra Riemenschneider
3rd / 4th gradesMrs. Carol Nutter
5th-8th gradesMrs. Karen Childs
	Mr. David Nelson
	Mr. Ken Fox
Music / VocalMr. Richard Degitz
PrincipalMr. Richard Preston

